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### John Kean to Susan Kean, April 23, 1787

John Kean

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The 19<sup>th</sup> April in the evening & the 20<sup>th</sup> in the morning shall be formed into one day in my future computation of time & in this I shall follow the Scriptural mode of reckoning, for there the evening & morning was the first day - I will mark my day as the Romans did their fortunate ones with a white shell & why will I do this - because both from Charleston & Savannah I have received my dear Susans well known character - I got that by the way of Savannah first it is a very short letter, I felt pleased but dissatisfied - pleased because I had heard from you, dissatisfied because you had written so little & afflicted because you my love had suffered so much pain - the next morning I received three packets - my pleasure was increased - my dissatisfaction was entirely removed - but yet my affliction remained - my Susan had suffered from cruel, hard hearted pain, I rejoice with you that you have had sufficient fortitude to remove the offending member & I pray heaven that with its removal, all your ills may cease & that never more may my Susan know a pain, but such as will give a blessing fifty times more pleasing -



If it were possible to ~~the~~ envy those we love  
I should most assuredly envy Ricketts & Otto - why  
are they the favourites of heaven, blessed with  
health & enabled to stay with their wives & enjoy  
real happiness, while I weak & sickly just crawling  
on the face of the earth am obliged to leave mine  
a prey to anxiety, apprehension, anguish & fear, but  
it is not for mortals to scrutinize the ways of Providence  
I rest myself on the Pillow of resignation & say  
Lord thy will be done - but be assured that no one  
can wish more real happiness to or rejoice more in  
your Sisters welfare than does your husband and had  
heaven been pleased to place me in a situation to  
have acted & them to have demanded my assistance  
they should not find me making professions only -  
but we must be contented - let us not look at  
the bright side of the view always - but some times  
on the clouded - see how many are worse of than  
we are & remain satisfied -

Great pains it is said swallow up little ones,  
sure I am great pleasure buries them - but they will  
return & have their moment - the pleasure I  
enjoyed from hearing from you & receiving such



highly pleasing marks of your affectionate attachment - had buried the weaker sorrow on my sister's account almost in oblivion - In January they had a slight shock of an earthquake, which frightened her excessively & being far advanced in her pregnancy brought on a premature labour - the child died the next day & her health is much injured - so much so that she is going to France for her recovery - every thing is a ~~needless~~ proof of the weakness of mortals - but it is in vain to repine.

I am happy to hear a spirit of economy has spread its influence over Congress - if they use it properly it may do good - If the Treasury is not less than £800 N.Y. currency a year & a vacancy happens I would chuse to be nominated for it, if I should be elected & the climate does not agree with me I can but resign - in this matter you will also consider how you will like the removal to Philadelphia as I do it with a view to your happiness, supposing that you will (which is very natural) be better satisfied to be with or near your friends than at a distance from them - In every thing of this kind I wish to do what ever is most pleasing to you & if my health will bear the climate confessing it will be most pleasing to me also -



W<sup>rs</sup> Chancellor has a claim upon my best wishes & I give them with great sincerity, may they prove beneficial to her is my prayer - she is a worthy woman - Pray always remember me to her in the kindest manner -

I rejoice in the good health of your father may it long continue & his evening of life glide happily away - if he was my own parent I could not feel a higher degree of veneration & love for him than I do - but is not my Susans relations mine, am I not part of her - yes I am, & her father is mine - I hope my love when he conversed with you, that you mentioned to him my desire to secure to you whatever he means to give you - if you have not let me entreat that it may be done - 89<sup>v</sup> -

Give my most dutiful respects to your father & mother - my love to all the rest of the family - respects & compliments to friends & acquaintances -

Gen<sup>l</sup> P. Clair & W<sup>rs</sup> Judge Livingston stand at the top of the friendly list - I am happy to find my friend Pinckney is so attentive - may you ever receive from the worthy part of mankind every attention that can make life pass easily & happily away is the prayer of your affectionate husband -

John Bran

Braufort April 23<sup>d</sup> 1787 -

Ceasars mother & family are well, she is just ready to be in.